

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for processing a video signal, comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving said video signal comprising (i) a first segment having a series of frames, wherein (a) each of said frames of said first segment has a first region and a second region, and (b) said first region and said second region of said first segment define a first signature for each of said frames of said first segment and (ii) a second segment having a series of frames, wherein (a) each of said frames of said second segment has a first region and a second region, and (b) said first region and said second region of said second segment define a second signature for each of said frames of said second segment;

(B) sequentially modifying ~~each~~ all of said first signatures of all said frames of said first segment to a third signature, wherein said first segment comprises a non-commercial program; and

(C) sequentially modifying ~~each~~ all of said second signatures of all said frames of said second segment to a fourth signature.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second signature is equal to said fourth signature.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein (i) said second segment comprises a commercial program and (ii) said signature modification is performed to suppress the detection of commercials in said video signal.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein transitions between said first and second segments are not detectable.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said modifying in steps (B) and (C) comprises:

(i) scaling each of said frames to a first size, wherein after scaling each of said frames, said first region of each of said scaled frames is equal to a size of said first region and said second region of said frame prior to scaling each of said frames and (ii) cropping each of said scaled frames, wherein said cropped frames comprise only said first region of said scaled frame and said first region of said scaled frame is equal to the size of each of said frames prior to scaling each of said frames.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 5, wherein said first size fills said first region.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said video signal comprises a digital video signal.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said first region comprises an active region.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein said modifying in steps (A) and (B) comprises:

obscuring a start of an active video in at least one of said frames.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein:
step (C) comprises modifying said frames of said second segment from said second signature to said first signature.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for processing a video signal comprising:

means for receiving said video signal comprising (i) a first segment having a series of frames, wherein (a) each of said frames of said first segment has a first region and a second region, and (b) said first region and said second region of said first segment define a first signature for each of said frames of said first segment and (ii) a second segment having a series of frames, wherein (a) each of said frames of said second segment has

10 a first region and a second region, and (b) said first region and
said second region of said second segment define a second signature
for each of said frames of said second segment;

means for sequentially modifying ~~each~~ all of said first
signatures of all said frames of said first segment to a third
15 signature, wherein said first segment comprises a non-commercial
program; and

means for sequentially modifying ~~each~~ all of said second
signatures of all said frames of said second segment to a fourth
signature.

12. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 10,
wherein said video signal comprises a digital video signal.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for processing a
video signal comprising:

a circuit configured to receive said video signal
comprising (i) a first segment having a series of frames, wherein
5 (a) each of said frames of said first segment has a first region
and a second region, and (b) said first region and said second
region of said first segment define a first signature for each of
said frames of said first segment and (ii) a second segment having
a series of frames, wherein (a) each of said frames of said second
10 segment has a first region and a second region, and (b) said first

region and said second region of said second segment define a second signature for each of said frames of said second segment, wherein said circuit (i) sequentially modifies all ~~each~~ of said first signatures of all said frames of said first segment to a
15 third signature and (ii) sequentially modifies all ~~each~~ of said second signatures of all of said frames of said second segment to a fourth signature, wherein said first segment comprises a non-commercial program.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said video signal comprises a digital video signal.